

PMIC  
Final Report  
for  
JOSEPH A CESARE & ASSOC.

THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY MEASUREMENTS  
OF SANDSTONE SPECIMENS

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Scott Heiny

TEL: (702) 564-3331

FAX: (702) 564-8542

JOSEPH A CESARE & ASSOC.

106 Cassia Way  
Henderson, NV 89014

PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER 081213

TESTING SERVICES PROVIDED BY

*Precision Measurements and Instruments Corporation*

*3665 SW Deschutes Street  
Corvallis, OR 97333 USA*

*TEL: 541-753-0607*

*FAX: 541-753-0610*

*EMAIL: info@pmiclab.com*

# THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY MEASUREMENTS OF SANDSTONE SPECIMENS

WORK CONDUCTED FOR JOSEPH A CESARE & ASSOC.  
PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER 081213

March 3, 2009

Precision Measurements and Instruments Corporation (PMIC) measured the thermal conductivity of Sandstone test specimens. Measurements were performed with a guarded hot plate technique based on ASTM standard C-177, performed in dry nitrogen. Results are presented in the table. Information on thermal conductivity measurement techniques is also included.

## *Specimen Description*

Joseph A Cesare & Assoc. provided the following specimens:

Material	Nominal Length	Nominal Width	Nominal Thickness
Sandstone	6"	6"	1.22"
Sandstone	6"	6"	1.34"

The specimens were measured in the thickness direction.

## *Test Procedure*

### ◆ Specimen Check-In

The specimens were received on February 23, 2009, via UPS Ground. The specimens were inspected for damage. No specimen damage was observed. It was noted that the thickness varied by ~0.12" (10%) between specimens and up to 0.014"- 0.018" between points on a given specimen. The specimens were labeled and stored in a secure environment.

### ◆ Specimen Preparation

The specimens were tested as received.

### ◆ Specimen Conditioning

The specimens were tested as received.

### ◆ Thermal Conductivity Measurements C-177

The main features of the test apparatus are described in ASTM C-177. The center layer consists of a guard heater surrounding (in plane) a metering heater. The guard is maintained to within 0.1°C of the metered heater so that all heat generated flows up and down into the specimens. The bottom and top plates are kept at lower temperatures than the heater so that a gradient,  $\Delta T$ , is established across each specimen. The temperature differential across the apparatus was maintained at 30°C. Multiple thermocouples at the center top and center bottom of each specimen measure the  $\Delta T$ . All testing was conducted in a dry nitrogen environment at nominal temperatures of -18°C, 22°C and

49°C (0°F, 72°F and 120°F). Silicone rubber pads, 1/8" thick, were placed between the specimens and adjacent contact surfaces to assure uniform contact with the fixture. The specimens were placed with the smooth side towards the heat source in the apparatus.

◆ Analysis

When the metered and guard areas had been at the desired steady state conditions for sufficient time, 40 minutes of data were logged at 2-second intervals. The first 20 - minute data set and the second 20 -minute data set were analyzed separately to assure that no significant temperature drift occurred during logging. The output from the multiple thermocouple sets was then averaged to produce the temperature data used for the thermal conductivity calculations. The analysis is based on solution of Fourier's First Law of one-dimensional conduction:

$$k = \frac{q}{A} * \frac{dX}{dT}$$

where: k is the conductivity, W/m-K  
q is the heat flow, Watts  
A is the cross-sectional area of the specimen, m<sup>2</sup>  
dX is the specimen length, m  
dT is the is the temperature difference across the specimen, °C or K

**Uncertainty**

The uncertainty in the measurement was calculated using the following RMS method:

$$\omega_R = \left[ \left( \frac{\partial R}{\partial x_1} \omega_1 \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial R}{\partial x_2} \omega_2 \right)^2 + \dots + \left( \frac{\partial R}{\partial x_n} \omega_n \right)^2 \right]^{1/2}$$

where:  $\omega_R$  is the overall measurement uncertainty  
 $x_i$  is each measured input  
 $\omega_i$  is the estimated uncertainty of each measurement input,  $x_i$   
 $\partial R/\partial x_i$  is the weighted contribution of each input,  $x_i$

The estimated uncertainties are:  
I ~ 0.05% of reading, Amps  
V ~ 0.05% of reading, Volts  
A ~ 1%, m<sup>2</sup>  
dX ~ 0.000254 m (0.01 inch)  
T ~ 0.25°C

**Thermal Conductivity Test Results**

Thermal properties are presented in **Table 1**, in several systems of units. The actual average specimen temperature is also listed. The R-Value is based on the average thickness of 1.284" (0.107').

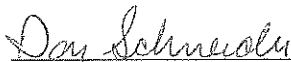
The uncertainty based on the method shown above is ~2.3% at the three temperature points. However, this does not take into account the inconsistent specimen thickness. It

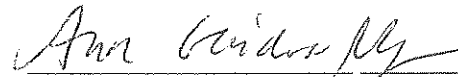
was also noted that the material properties resulted in inconsistent temperature gradients through the specimens at different points.


**Table 1, Through-Thickness Thermal Properties  
Based on ASTM C-177**

Sample ID	Nominal Temperature (°C)	-18	22	49
Sandstone  Tested in a dry nitrogen gas environment	Tested Temperature (°C)	-19	21	48
	Conductivity (W/m-K)	2.8	2.8	2.9
	Tested Temperature (°F)	-1	71	119
	Conductivity (Btu/hr-ft-°F)	1.6	1.6	1.7
	Conductivity (BTU-in)/(hr-ft <sup>2</sup> -°F)	19	20	20
	R-Value (hr-ft <sup>2</sup> -°F/Btu) @ 1.284"	0.067	0.065	0.063

Please contact our technical staff at (541) 753-0607 with any technical questions.

 3-5-09  
Don Schneider Date  
Project Engineer

 3-3-09  
Ann Gaidos-Morgan Date  
Test Technician

 3-4-09  
Darrell Oakes Date  
Lab Manager

Precision Measurements and Instruments Corporation hereby claims that test results are obtained by techniques based on relevant ASTM standards, calibrations with NIST standard reference materials and/or published procedures. Thus, we accept no liability for test results beyond the cost of the contract rendered.

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